Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-29. Canceled.

30.(Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA vector comprising a promoter operably linked to a heterologous ~~an~~ truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence which consists of a coding sequence encoding a C-terminally truncated NHX1 polypeptide ~~comprising a C-terminal deletion, which truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprises a sequence~~ which has at least 90% ~~identical~~ sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: ~~10~~ 2 and is less than 530 amino acids in length, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide confers increased Na^+ tolerance in a plant compared to a plant ~~that lacks the *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence~~ into which the truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide was not introduced.

31. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.

32. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.

33. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.

34. (Previously Presented) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.

35. (Currently Amended) The recombinant DNA vector of claim 30, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the promoter is a plant promoter.

36. (Currently Amended) A purified truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide encoding a C-terminally truncated NHX1 polypeptide ~~comprising a C-terminal deletion, which truncated NHX1 polypeptide comprises a sequence~~ which has at least 90% ~~identical~~ sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: ~~10~~ 2 and is less than 530 amino acids in length, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide confers increased Na^+ tolerance in a plant compared to a plant ~~that lacks the *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence~~ into which the truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide was not introduced..

37. (Currently Amended) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated *NHX1* polynucleotide sequence is SEQ ID NO. 9.

38. (Previously Presented) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 10.

39. (Previously Presented) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 500 amino acids in length.

40. (Previously Presented) The purified *NHX1* polynucleotide of claim 36, wherein the truncated NHX1 polypeptide is less than 475 amino acids in length.